WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records due to a digital music file illegally distributed through a communication network, comprising the steps of:

a) producing an advertising digital music file by deteriorating or damaging a sound quality of an original music file of a record of a cooperating record corporation; and

b) distributing the advertising digital music file through the communication network.

2.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by inserting noise component such as a voice of a singer or performer in the original music file, thereby damaging the sound quality.

3.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by lowering a sampling rate of the digital music file to below that of the original music file, thereby deteriorating the sound quality.

4.   The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by distorting the waveform of the original music using a function

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such as a "cut", "copy", or etc., thereby damaging the sound quality.

5. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by converting a multi-channel sound of the original music to a single-channel sound, thereby deteriorating the sound quality.

6. A method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records due to a digital music file illegally distributed through a communication network, comprising the steps of:

a) collecting an illegally produced digital music file, which is derived from a record of a cooperating record corporation by searching the communication network;

b) editing the collected digital music file to deteriorate or damage the sound quality of it; and

c) distributing the edited digital music file through the communication network again.

7. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein at step a) the collected music file is edited by inserting noise component such as a voice of a singer or performer in the collected music file, thereby damaging the sound quality of the illegally produced music file.

8.   The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein at step a) the collected music file is edited by lowering a sampling rate of the collected music file to below that of an original music file, thereby deteriorating the sound quality of the
5   illegally produced music file.

9.   The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein at step a) the collected music file is edited by distorting the waveform of the collected music using a function such as
10   "cut", "copy", or etc., therby damaging the sound quality of the illegally produced music file.

10.   The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein at step a) the collected music file is edited by converting a multi-
15   channel sound of the collected music file to a single-channel sound, thereby deteriorating the sound quality of the illegally produced music file.

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